US Army Corps
of Engineers
New Orleans District

Benefits of Outreach and Collaboration

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April 30, 2008

2008 PCOP Esenwein R #024

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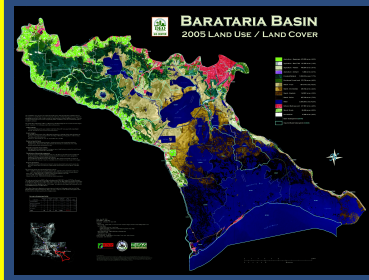
Collaborative Planning

Perspectives from Two In-Progress Feasibility Studies

WEST SHORE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN

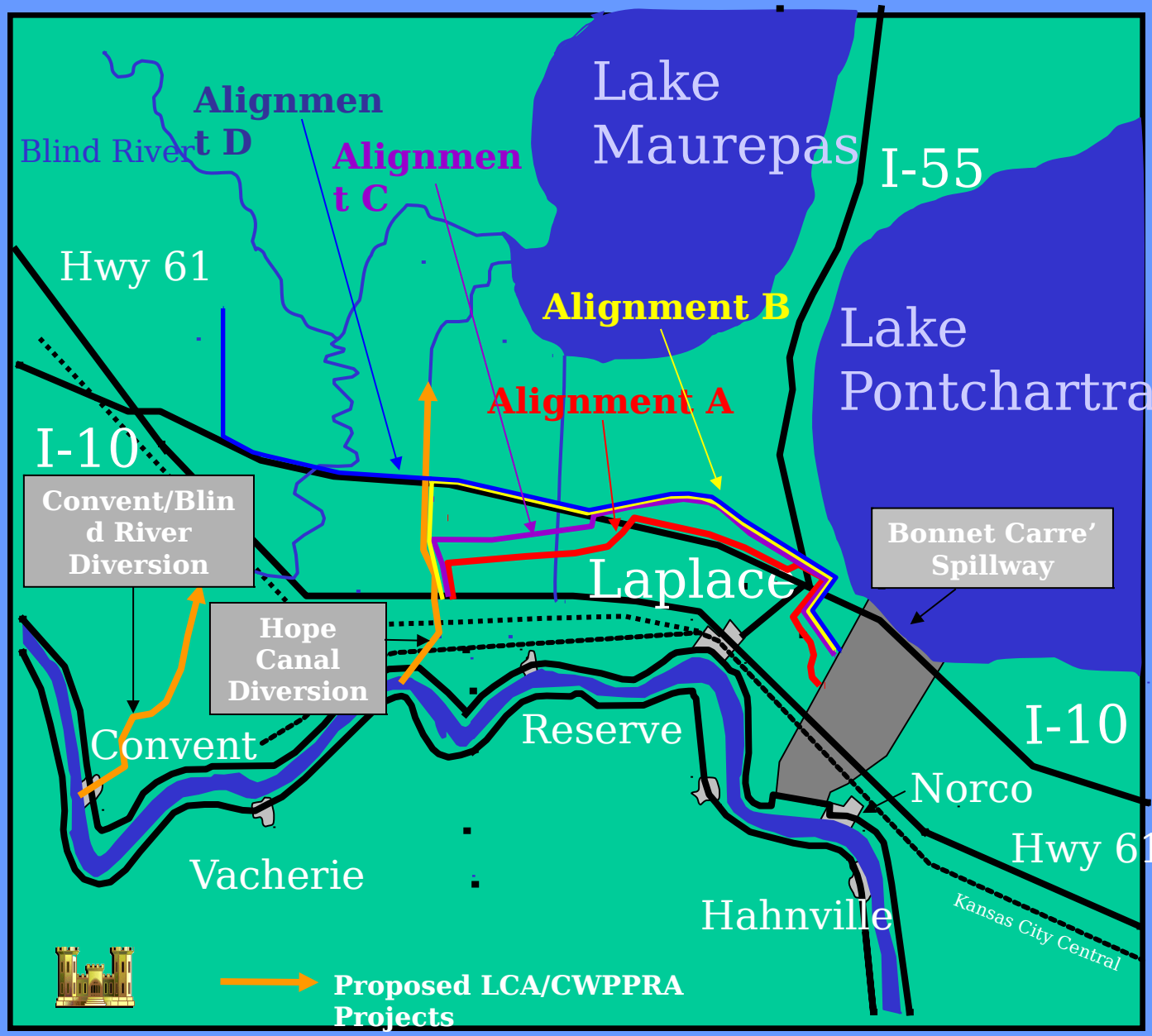


Donaldsonville to the Gulf

Possible Hurricane Levee Alignments
Donaldsonville
Laplace
MISSISSIPPI RIVER
St. John Parish
West Bank & Vicinity Hurricane Protection
Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion
Metairie
St. James Parish
Lac Des Allemands
Luling
Jefferson Parish
Lake Cataoua tche
Des Allemands
Thibodaux
Lafourche Parish
St. Charles Parish
BAYOU LAFOURCHE
Lake Salvador
Houma
Larose
GIWW
Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection
Terrebonne Parish
Ridge
Hwy 90
Pipeline Canal
GIWW
Existing Hurricane Protection Levee

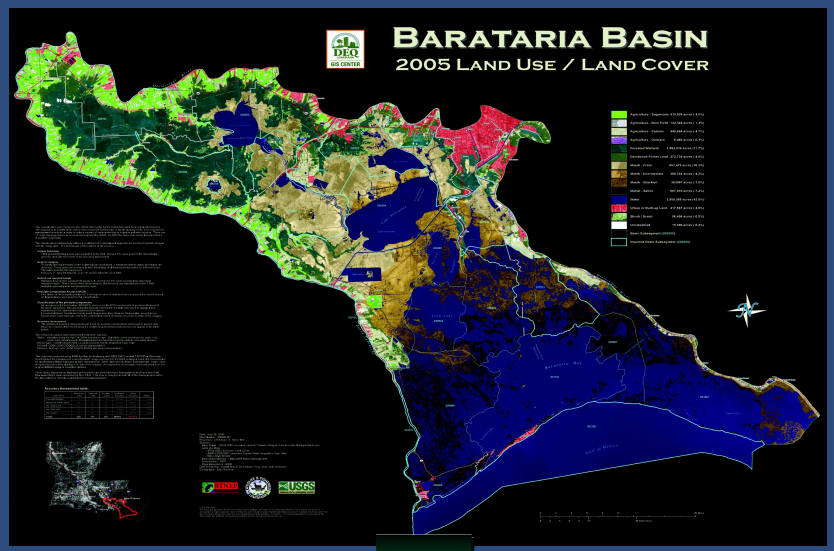
WEST SHORE-LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, LA

- **Status:**
  Ongoing feasibility study
- **Sponsor:**
  Pontchartrain Levee District
- **Issue:**
  Enclosing Wetlands
- **Last Event/Date:**
  Sponsor/COE agreed to continue Feasibility Study in Nov 07
- **Next Event/Date:**
  Approve revised FCSA/PMP Amendment – May 08



Benefits of Outreach and Collaboration, April 30, 2008

Two In-Progress Feasibility Studies



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Common Elements of Both Studies

- Need for Flood Damage Reduction a
  Hurricane Protection
  - Structural
  - Non-structural

- Need to Protect, Enhance, and Restore Ecosystem Functions
- Need to be Consistent with State of Louisiana's Master Plan (CPRA) and Corp's LACPR Objectives for Hurricane Damage Risk Reduction and Coastal Restoration: Generally, to unite coastal restoration with hurricane protection.

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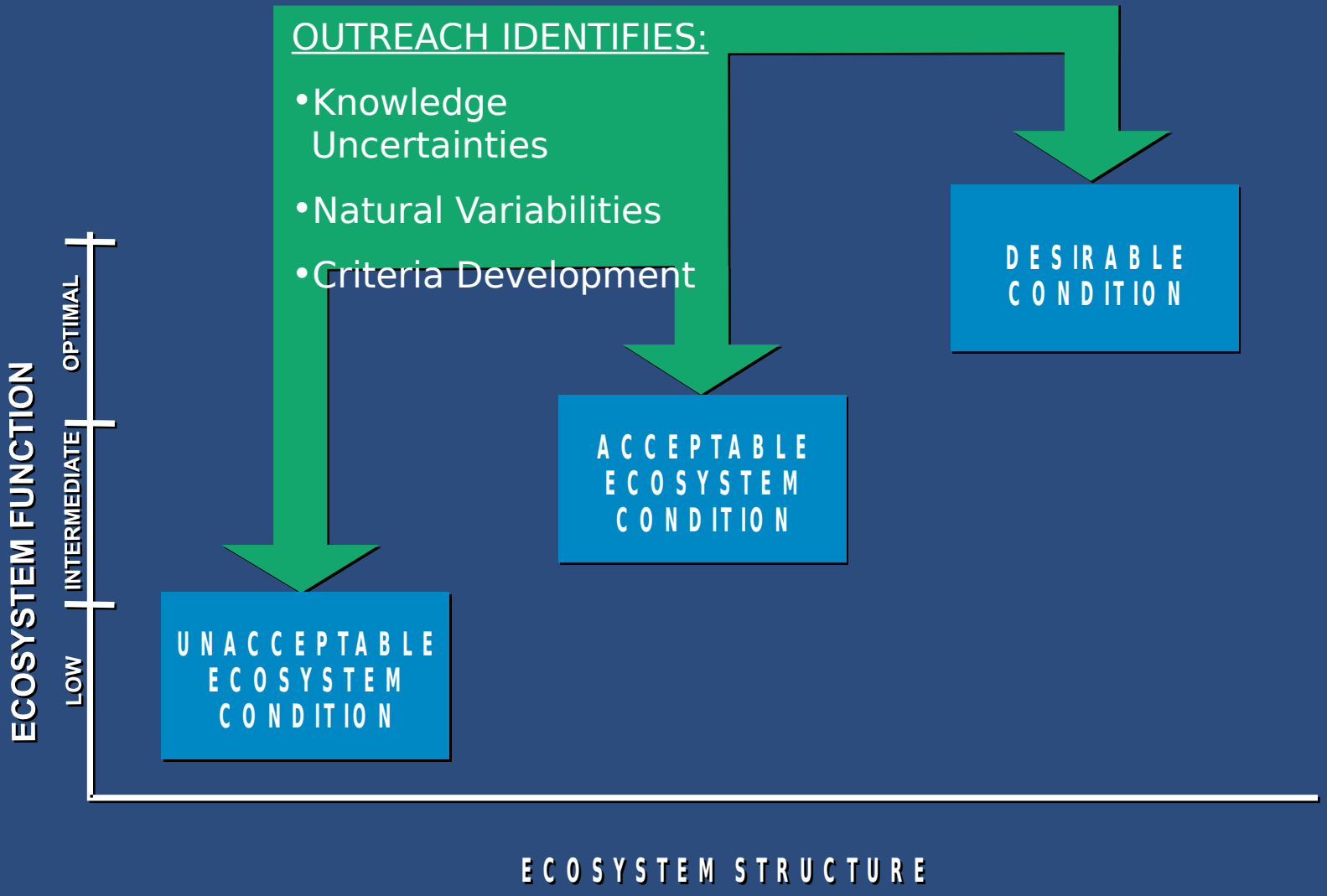
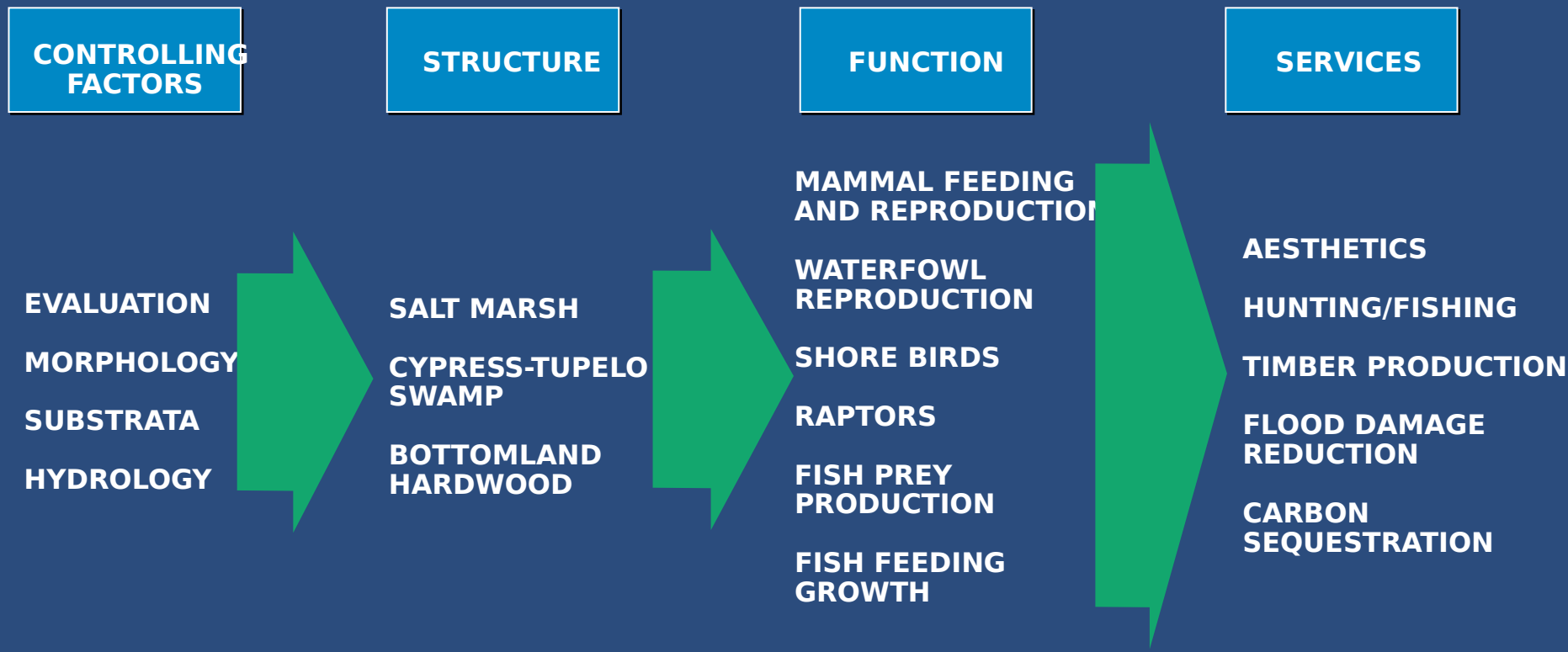
Ecosystem Structure and Function



Wetland Systems



OUTREACH PROVIDES THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THESE LINKAGES

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Reasons and Hesitations for Collaboration and Technical Outreach

Reasons

- Obtaining background and field data is very expensive and time consuming.
- Other agencies and organizations may have a wealth of information, maps, and other materials to share.
- Other agencies will review your plans – so why not start the dialogue [illegible] beginning of stud

Hesitations

- Time consuming, costly, distraction
- Eager to start analyses
- Afraid to expose weaknesses of study

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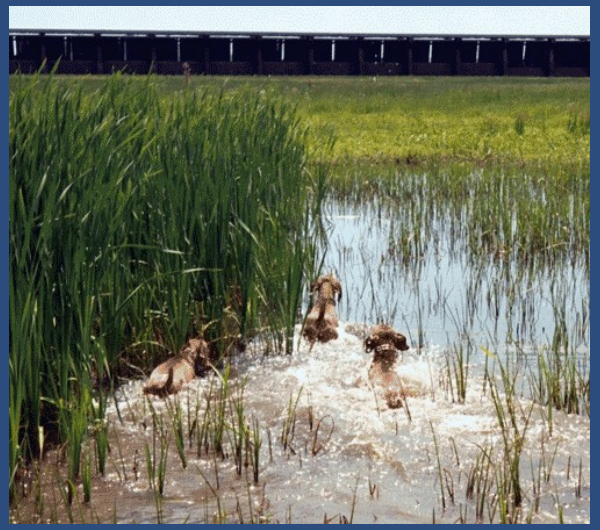
Reasons for Collaboration and Technical Outreach

- Significant impairment of coastal landforms and marsh platform as a result of:
  - Elimination/reduction of sediment to floodplain
  - Subsidence
  - Sea level rise
  - Other man made causes of loss
- Challenges
  - Complex process of balancing structural and non-structural storm risk reduction measures
  - How to obtain historical information from scientific and legal organizations
- Land loss rates of 35 square miles per year and the reduced effect on storm surge reduction is a strong incentive to collaborate



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How does a study team obtain information from knowledge centers to benefit a study?

- Identify the key scientific/legal leadership in the affected communities.
- Contact researchers and academic institutions.
- Meet with each individually and in small groups.
- Meet with all of the state and federal agencies at the same time.
- Ask focused questions designed to draw out concerns and to establish technical foundations.
  - Hydraulic model development
  - Additional research into Cypress-Tupelo swan
  - Referrals to other experts

Value of Outreach

- Provides a means to organize and interpret technical papers published in journals.
- Provides the ability to obtain updates and published research.
- Identifies areas where scientists disagree (publication debates).
- Leads planners deeper into issues.
- Uncertainty about known and unknown in field of study.
  - Process causes re-think of alternatives.
  - Manage versus unmanaged wetland systems.
  - Concerns about induced development.

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Higher Levels of Cooperation

- Collaboration leads to higher levels of interdisciplinary cooperation.
  - Scientific perspectives of engineering solutions.
  - Development of science review process.
  - Mutual search for truth generates higher levels of trust.

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Can Collaboration Lead to Better Decisions?

- Author's previous experience with new infrastructure projects.
  - Experience indicates yes.
  - Current work still in progress.
  - More collaboration yet to occur.

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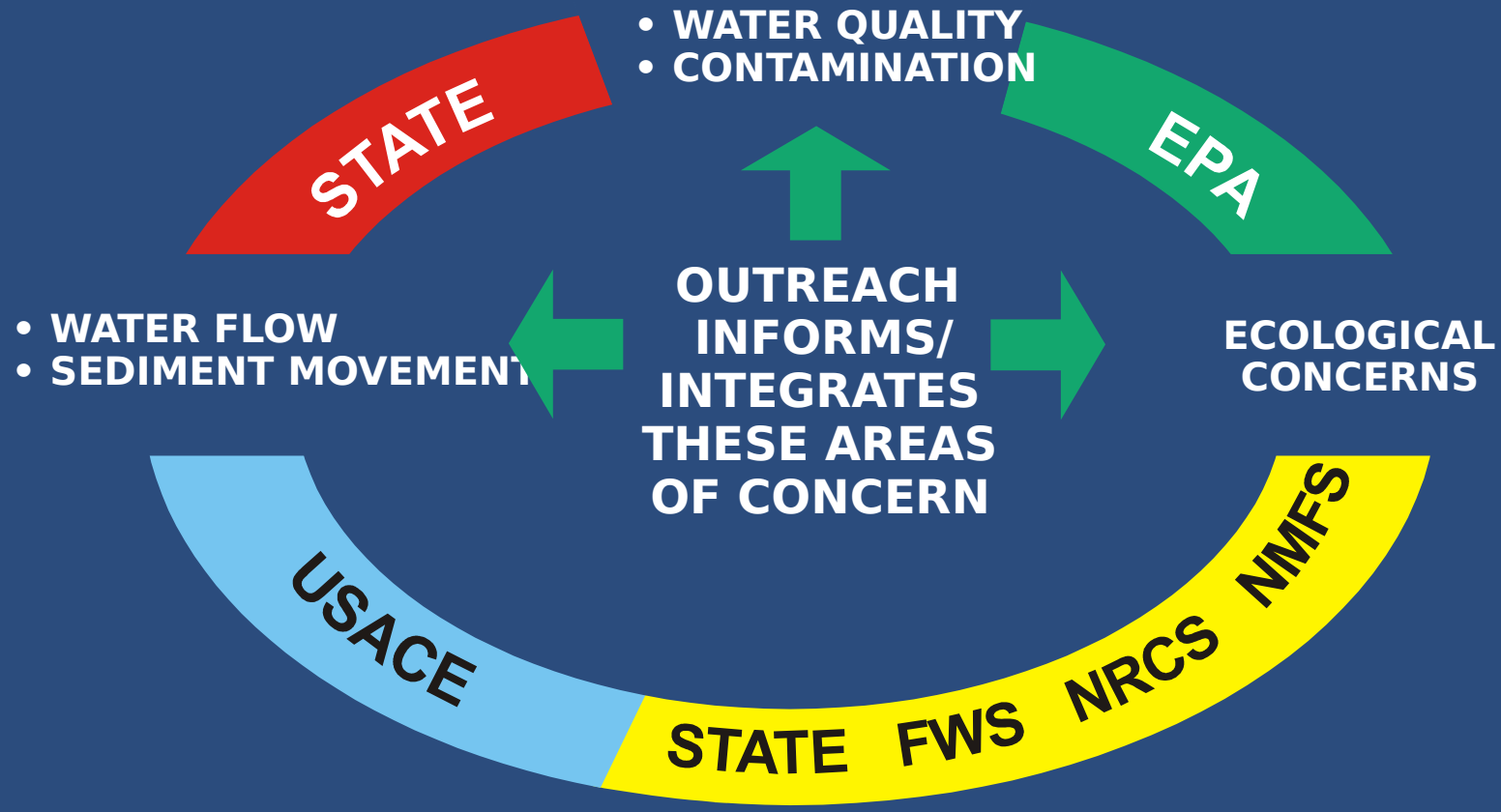
Can Collaboration Lead to Better Decisions?



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Essentials for Outreach

- Decide whether it will be formal or informal.
  - Formal approach has significant advantages, but costs more.
  - Requires dedicated time and resources from all parties.
  - Inform, consult or involve levels of participation.
- Typically at the Collaboration Level, parties work towards agreement on issues.
- Any of the levels are useful.
- Consider budgeting/scheduling these activities and make part of PMP.

Resources

- Collaboration in NEPA, handbook for NEPA practitioners, October 2007, Council on Environmental Quality.
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).
- EPA Conflict Prevention and Resolution Center.
- Department of Internal Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution.

Key Takeaway Points

- Collaboration means working together to achieve specific goals/objectives
- Collaboration can be done informally or through formal means including written agreements
- Consult existing guidance on collaboration
- Remember that the Corps of Engineers ultimately must make the project decisions
- Building a sound network of scientific expertise will pay dividends on future projects
- Collaboration may contribute to better decisions and better projects